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"MORAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS OF 'DIGITAL MAGIC':
EXPLORATIONS OF AN OPENING FIELD" BY LIONEL OBADIA.
РЕЦЕНЗИЯ НА СТАТЬЮ

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Аннотация. Данная публикация представляет собой критическую рецензию на статью 2020 г. за авторством L. Obadia "Moral and Financial Economics of 'Digital Magic': Explorations of an Opening Field". В статье рассматривается возможность анализа связи Интернета и религии.

Ключевые слова: Интернет, цифровизация, религия, магия.

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"MORAL AND FINANCIAL ECONOMICS OF 'DIGITAL MAGIC':
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PAPER REVIEW

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Abstract: This publication is a critical review of the 2020 paper by L. Obadia "Moral and Financial Economics of 'Digital Magic': Explorations of an Opening Field". The paper discusses the possibility of analysing the relationship between the Internet and religion.

Keywords: Internet, digitalisation, religion, magic.

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Lionel Obadia in his article presents his considerations about the emerging field of digital magic and explores its moral and financial implications. The content of the article corresponds to its title and offers a suggestive analysis of the interaction between religion, magic, technology, economics and ethics.

Following the author's logic one gets convinced of the need to study digital magic, because this new concept discreetly reflects the characteristics of the major changes occurring worldwide. In general terms, Lionel Obadia refers to "magic" as the use of supernatural resources to influence the course of the natural world, focusing on the dominance of the instrumental characteristics of magic over existential ones. It is worth noting that the author's work would have been much more valuable had he paid more attention to the explication of such multifaceted concepts as religion and magic. For example, the author provides no definition of digital magic, however, the general context allows the reader to form an opinion about this phenomenon.

This work is about an extremely topical issue, namely, the obvious active spread of digitalization in all spheres of life, and also highlights the insufficient knowledge of the digital transformation of religion, and even more so magic. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the process of religiosity digitization much more visible, including for ordinary people, when it turned out that the church is ready to provide virtual services [1]. Philosopher E. Chesnova shares the author's position, noting that the digitalization of religion leads not only to transformation, adaptation, but also to the emergence of new functions, institutions, roles, practices, phenomena, revision of important components of the religious complex [2]. The same is true when magic is concerned, according to the article. The article discusses the nature of the Internet, which, according to the author, combines both reflection of the transformations affecting religions and technical aspects of

Павлова Е. В.

"Moral and Financial Economics of 'Digital Magic': Explorations of an Opening Field"
by Lionel Obadia. Рецензия на статью

such transformations. Innovative and extremely interesting is the idea of the existence of three types of religions: religions on the Internet, religions of the Internet and religions about the Internet. However, despite a certain connection between religion and magic, he believes that the analysis of the impact of digitalization on them should avoid any a priori equivalence in effects, dynamics and transformations. We can agree with the distinctive feature of magic highlighted by the author, namely, its ability to include elements from other systems and spheres. Curious and at the same time controversial is the author's thesis about the connection between magic and global capitalism, manifested in its materiality and instrumentalism. It is worth noting that in this case, these features are also inherent in religion. In addition to consideration of the economic aspects, the author also touches on the ethical side of the issue, focusing on the emerging concern regarding the moral aspect of the provision of magical services and goods on the Internet and the negative consequences of evil magic. While the article gives a comprehensive analysis of the subject, it would be helpful to provide more detailed real-life examples and case studies to support the author's arguments helping readers to better understand the practical applications and implications of the digital magic. Definitely, it is desirable that the paper would include certain considerations of how digital aspects change the attitudes of people from different backgrounds, supporters of religion and supporters of magic. It is also important that the author singles out technophobes and technophiles, because in addition to the conflict between the supporters of religion and the supporters of magic, there are also those who support or, conversely, deny the penetration of ICT into religion. One of the strengths of this article is that complex concepts are presented in a clear and accessible way. Obadia demonstrates deep understanding of the subject and presents his arguments in a logical and coherent way using real life examples. The article is well structured, each section is logical instantiation of the previous one, creation a comprehensive overview of the topic. The author's exploration of the moral implications of digital magic is particularly insightful. Obadia raises important issues of ethical aspects involved in the use of technology in various fields. He highlights the potential

consequences of over-reliance on digital magic, emphasizing the need for careful consideration of its impact on individuals, society, and the economy.

Moreover, Obadia's analysis of the financial economics of digital magic brings new added value to the article. He studies the potential economic benefits and risks associated with the widespread adoption of digital magic, discussing its impact on wealth distribution and market dynamics. This analysis shows good perspectives for this new field.

On the whole, Obadia's article is indeed thought-provoking and elaborating different issues that shed light on the new field of digital magic. A wide grasp of literature and profound analysis are the advantages of this article. Thus, the author's study of moral and financial implications provides valuable information about this emerging area of research. Completing this article with further investigation and statistical data proving the importance of the described phenomena will make it an even more useful resource for scholars, philosophers, political analysts, and professionals interested in the cohesion of religion, technology, economics and ethics.

Павлова Е. В.

"Moral and Financial Economics of 'Digital Magic': Explorations of an Opening Field"
by Lionel Obadia. Рецензия на статью

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